

SCHWEGMAN ■ LUNDBERG ■ WOESSNER ■ KLUTH

**United States Patent Application**  
**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING NARROWBAND NOISE.

The specification of which was filed on January 4, 2001 as application serial no. 09/754,098.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (attached hereto). I also acknowledge my duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability which became available between a filing date of a prior application and the national or PCT international filing date in the event this is a Continuation-In-Part application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(e).

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Attorney Docket No.: 279.278US1  
 Serial No. 09/754,098  
 Filing Date: January 4, 2001

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Anglin, J. Michael	Reg. No. 24,916	Hill, Stanley K.	Reg. No. 37,548	Nielsen, Walter W.	Reg. No. 25,539
Arora, Sumeel	Reg. No. 42,267	Huebsch, Joseph C.	Reg. No. 42,673	Oh, Allen J.	Reg. No. 42,047
Beckman, Marvin L.	Reg. No. 38,377	Jurkovich, Paul J.	Reg. No. 44,813	Padys, Danny J.	Reg. No. 35,635
Bianchi, Timothy E.	Reg. No. 39,610	Kalis, Janel M.	Reg. No. 37,650	Parker, J. Kevin	Reg. No. 33,024
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Please direct all correspondence in this case to Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. at the address indicated below:  
 P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402  
 Telephone No. (612)373-6900

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of joint inventor number 1: Joseph E. Bange  
 Citizenship: United States of America Residence: Eagan, MN  
 Post Office Address: 832 Overlook Place  
Eagan, MN 55123

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph E. Bange

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of joint inventor number 2: Steven Schmitt  
 Citizenship: United States of America Residence: Stillwater, MN  
 Post Office Address: 13690 49th Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Schmitt

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets, attached hereto.

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Full Name of joint inventor number 3: Fred Schleifer  
Citizenship: United States of America  
Post Office Address: 20225 Mushtown Road  
Prior Lake, MN 55372-8899

Residence: Prior Lake, MN

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Fred Schleifer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

31 Jul 01

Full Name of inventor:  
Citizenship:  
Post Office Address:

Residence:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Citizenship:  
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§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

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Full Name of joint inventor number 1: Joseph E. Bange

Citizenship: United States of America

Residence: Eagan, MN

Post Office Address: 832 Overlook Place  
Eagan, MN 55123

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph E. Bange

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

23 July 2001

Full Name of joint inventor number 2: Steven Schmitt

Citizenship: United States of America

Residence: Stillwater, MN

Post Office Address: 13690 49th Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Steven Schmitt

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Attorney Docket No.: 279.278US1

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Fred Schleifer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Post Office Address:

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P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402  
 Telephone No. (612)373-6900

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of joint inventor number 1: Joseph E. Benge  
 Citizenship: United States of America Residence: Eagan, MN  
 Post Office Address: 832 Overlook Place  
Eagan, MN 55123

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph E. Benge

Full Name of joint inventor number 2: Steven Schmitt  
 Citizenship: United States of America Residence: Stillwater, MN  
 Post Office Address: 13690 49th Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/26/01  
Steven Schmitt

☒ Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets, attached hereto.

Attorney Docket No.: 279278US1  
Serial No. 09/754,098  
Filing Date: January 4, 2001

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Full Name of joint inventor number 3: Fred Schleifer  
Citizenship: United States of America  
Post Office Address: 20225 Mushorn Road  
Prior Lake, MN 55372-8899

Residence: Prior Lake, MN

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Schleifer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of inventor:  
Citizenship:  
Post Office Address:

Residence:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of inventor:  
Citizenship:  
Post Office Address:

Residence:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of inventor:  
Citizenship:  
Post Office Address:

Residence:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Docket No.: 279.278US1  
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§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.